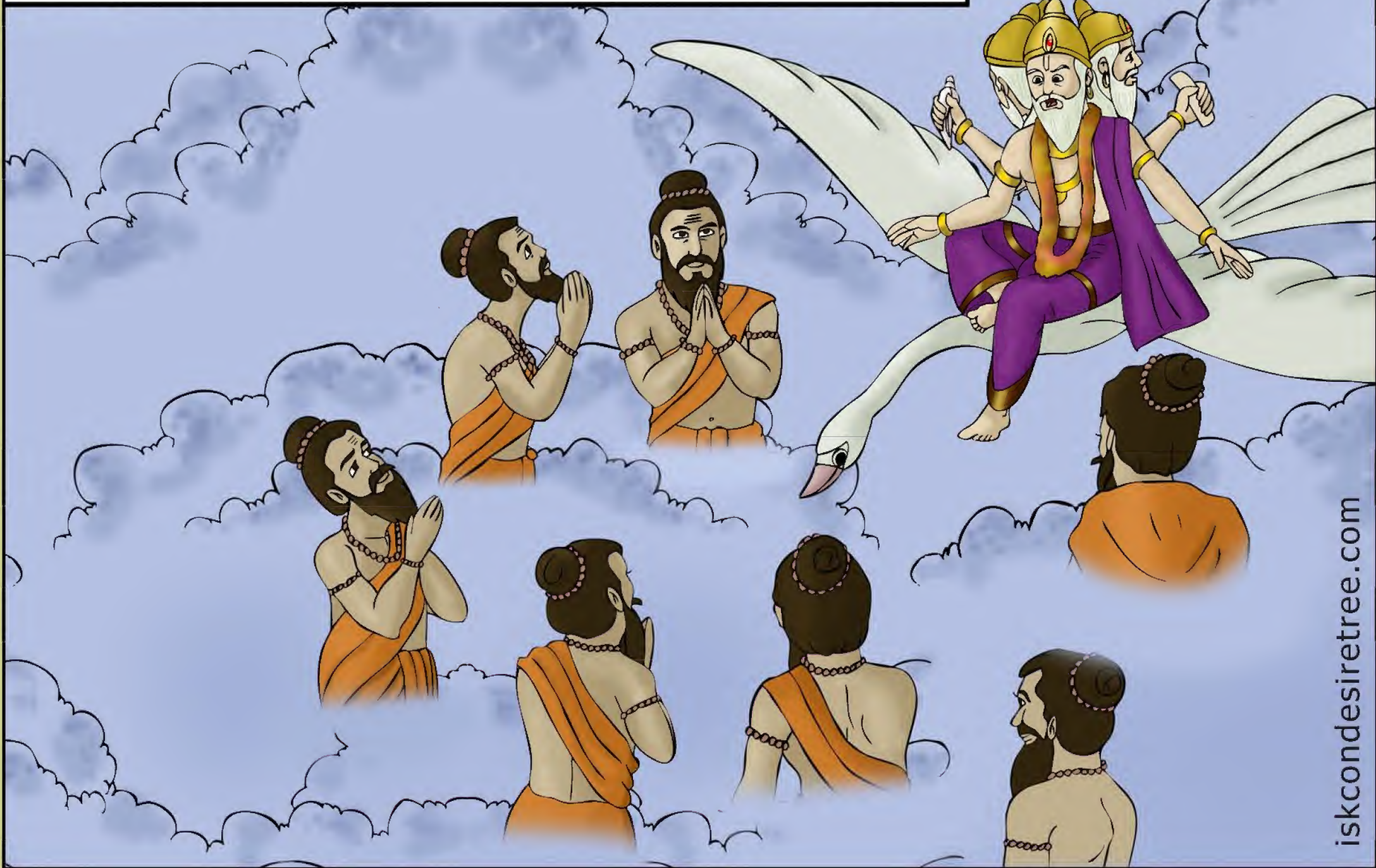


NARADA MUNI



Lord Brahma on the order of Lord Krishna created, Narada Muni, along with other Rishis such as Angira, Marichi etc.



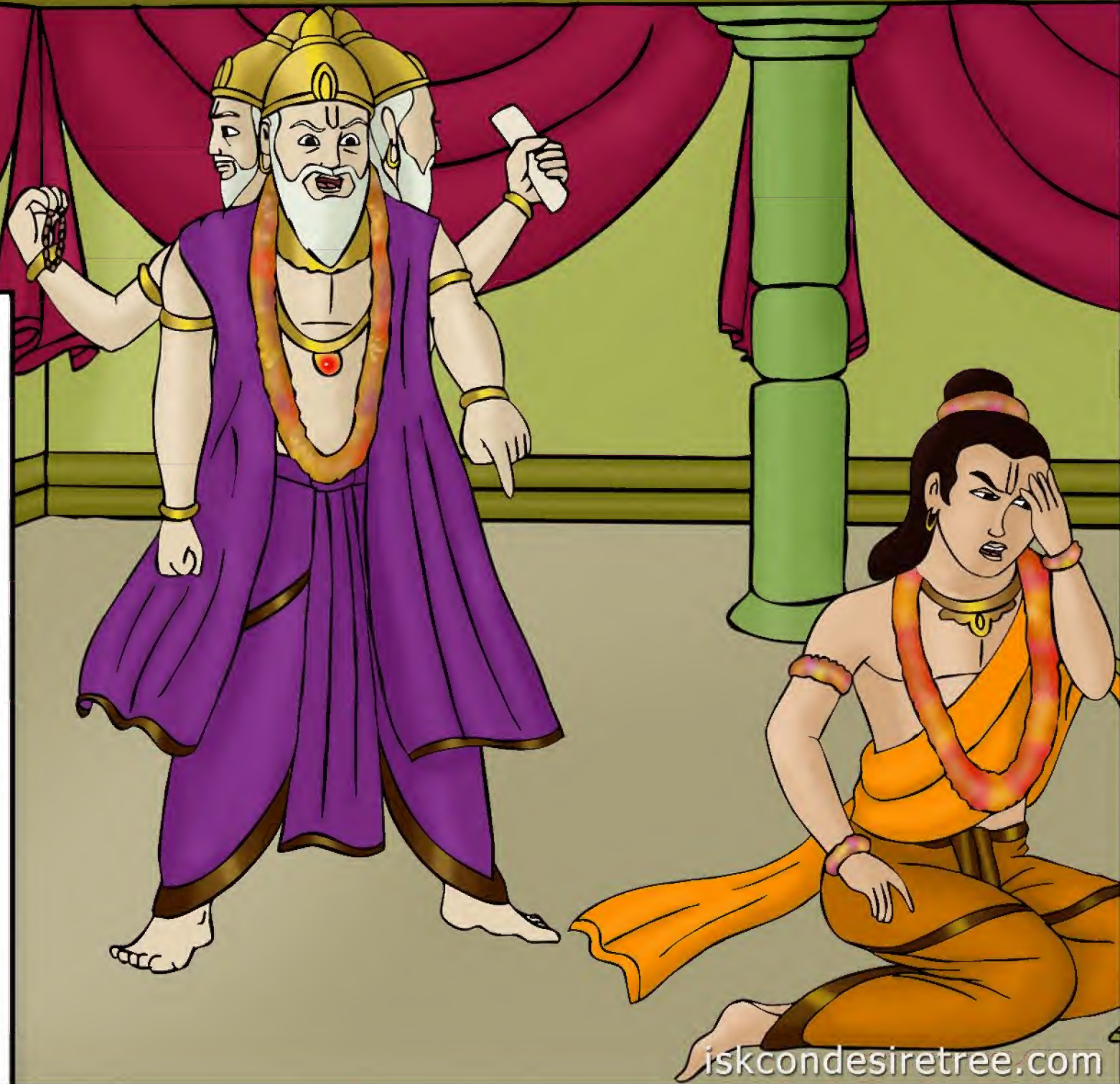
Narada Muni was an ardent devotee of Lord Krishna since his birth. He enjoyed singing the glories of Lord Krishna. Moved by his Bhakti, the Lord gifted him a wonderful musical instrument called Vina. Narada Muni traversed all over the world, happily singing the glories of Lord Krishna to the fascinating tune of Vina.



With the aim of populating the Universe with more living beings, Lord Bramha asked his son Narada to refrain from roaming with the Vina and instead settle down by getting married and establish a lineage.



But Narada declined to accept his father's advice on the plea that family bondage is the cause of sorrow and he preferred singing the glories of Lord Krishna. Narada Muni's denial infuriated Lord Brahma and he cursed him to lead the life of a Gandharva (celestial singer) for one Kalpa. One Kalpa is Lord Brahma's one day and is equal to 432,000,000 solar years.



Narada Muni was then born to the Gandharva class of demigods and became known as Upabarhana. He was a cherubic musician and hence capable of alluring beautiful women. As his fame circulated far and wide, he became high-minded.



Once all the Gandharvas were participating in a music festival, while all were singing and dancing as per agreeable rhythm, Upabarhana missed a particular beat as he got distracted by the charm of a woman around him. The demigods, displeased at his unbecoming behavior, cursed him to be born as a low class Shudra. Thus, Narada was born to a maidservant in his next birth on earth.





Though he was born to a maidservant, he remembered his last two births because of Lord Krishna's blessings. When a few sages arrived to stay at his home during chaturmasya (the four months of rainy season), he served them with utmost care and gave up playing even though he was only four years old.

The sages taught him about the Bhaktimarga. He also got the opportunity to take the leftover foodstuffs of the sages as Prasadam. This made him spiritually elevated and all his past misdeeds got dissolved.



As a result, he got back his life as the son of Lord Brahma and started treading on the path of Bhakti once again, by playing Vina and singing the glories of Lord Krishna.



Narada Muni was ever enthusiastic to guide people on the path of spirituality and consequently became the spiritual master to many.





Bhakta Prahlad was one of them. Prahlad's father Hiranyakashyapu was a tyrannical demon ruler. He migrated to the mountain forest of Mandirachala to practice severe austerities to enhance his demonic powers.

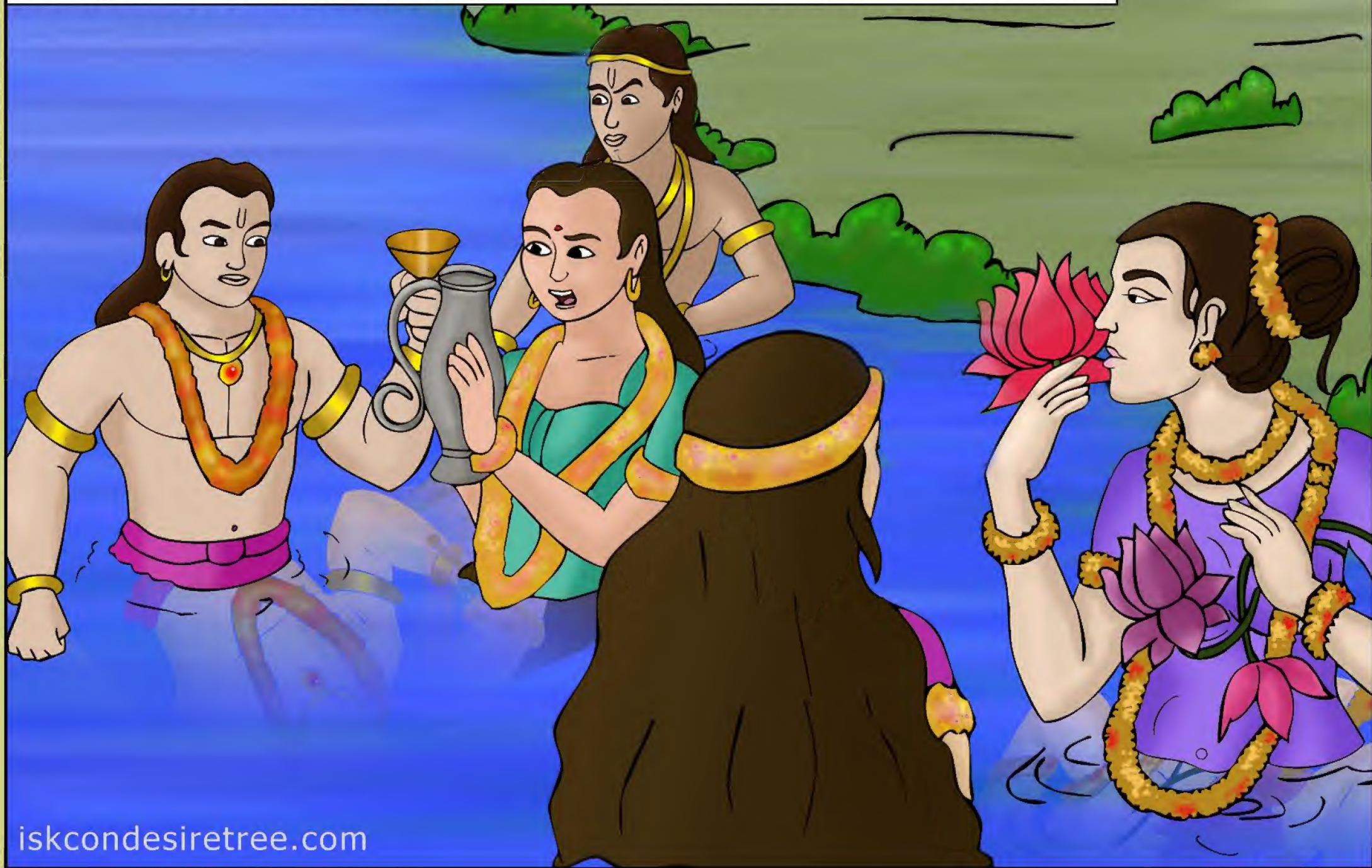
Taking advantage of his absence the demigods attacked his kingdom. The demigods caught hold of the pregnant wife of Hiranyakashyapu and held her captive so that they could kill the new-born and stop the blooming of another Hiranyakashyapu-like oppressive demon.



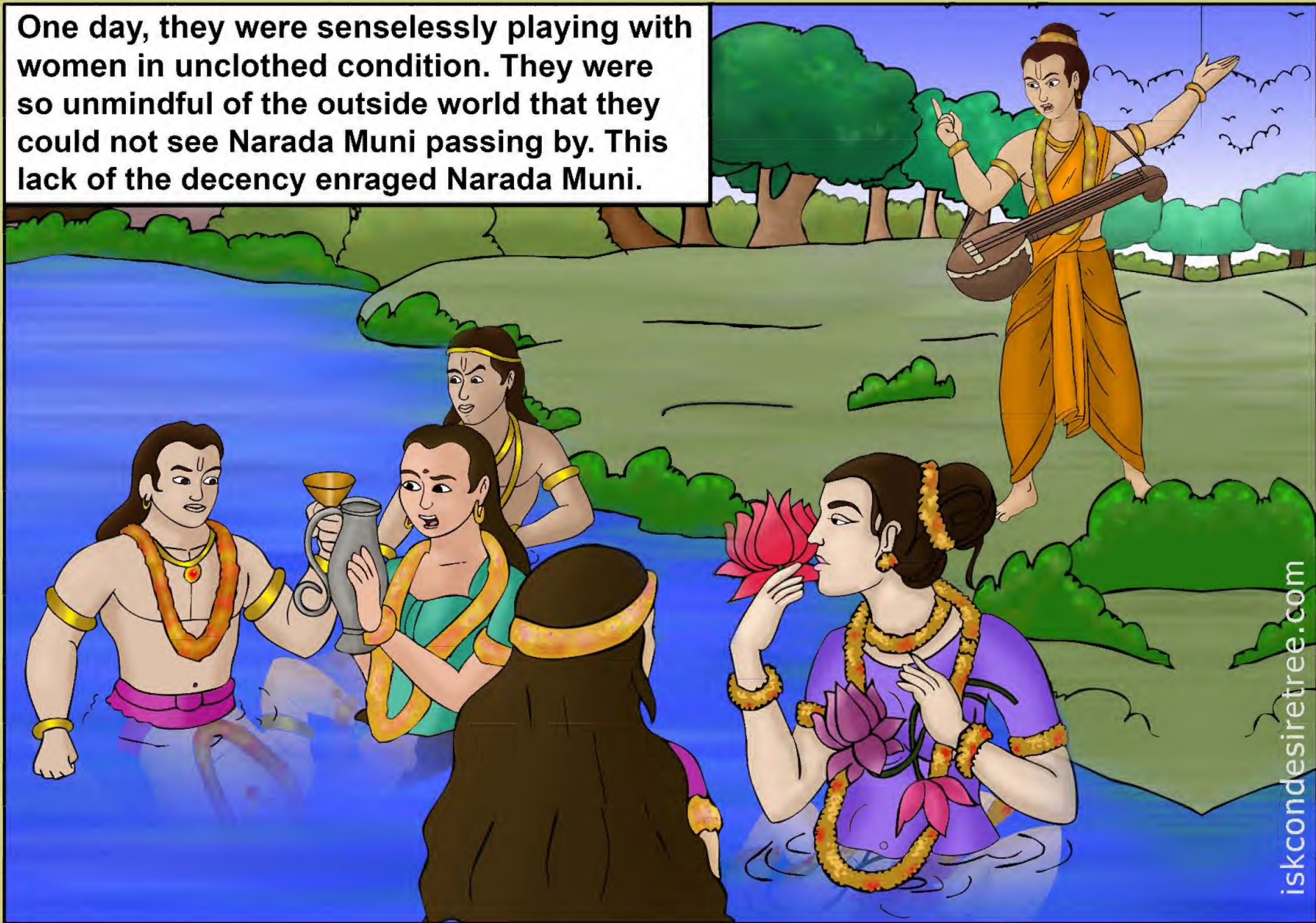
However, Narda Muni came to the rescue of the child and urged the demigods to free Prahlad's mother, as her forthcoming issue was destined to be a great devotee. The demigods immediately released her with due honour and returned to their respective kingdoms.



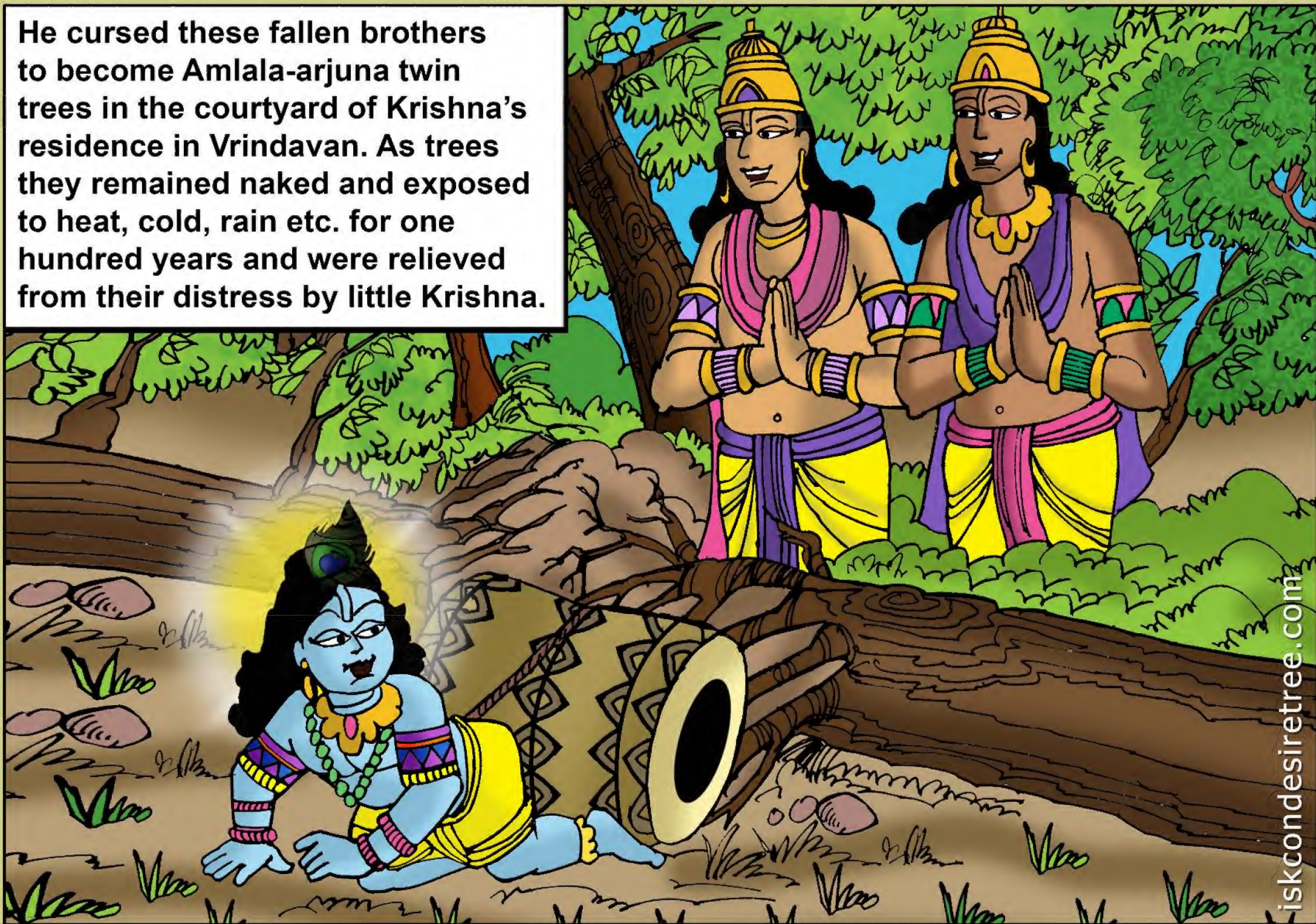
Nalakuvara and Manigriva were the sons of Kuvera, the treasurer of demigods. In their youth they became addicted to wine and women.



One day, they were senselessly playing with women in unclothed condition. They were so unmindful of the outside world that they could not see Narada Muni passing by. This lack of the decency enraged Narada Muni.



He cursed these fallen brothers to become Amlala-arjuna twin trees in the courtyard of Krishna's residence in Vrindavan. As trees they remained naked and exposed to heat, cold, rain etc. for one hundred years and were relieved from their distress by little Krishna.



Mrigari was a very cruel hunter who half-killed animals to make them suffer. Narada Muni, out of compassion for the suffering animals preached the philosophy of Krishna consciousness to Mrigari.



Due to Narada Muni's association, Mrigari left all his bad habits and became compassionate towards all living creatures including ants.



The great Muni Narada, was amazed to see Dhruva, the son of Uttanapada, yearning for God at a very tender age. Narada showed mercy on the boy and initiated him with the time-tested mantra 'Om Namoh Bhagavate Vasudevaya' to get proximity of the Supreme Lord.



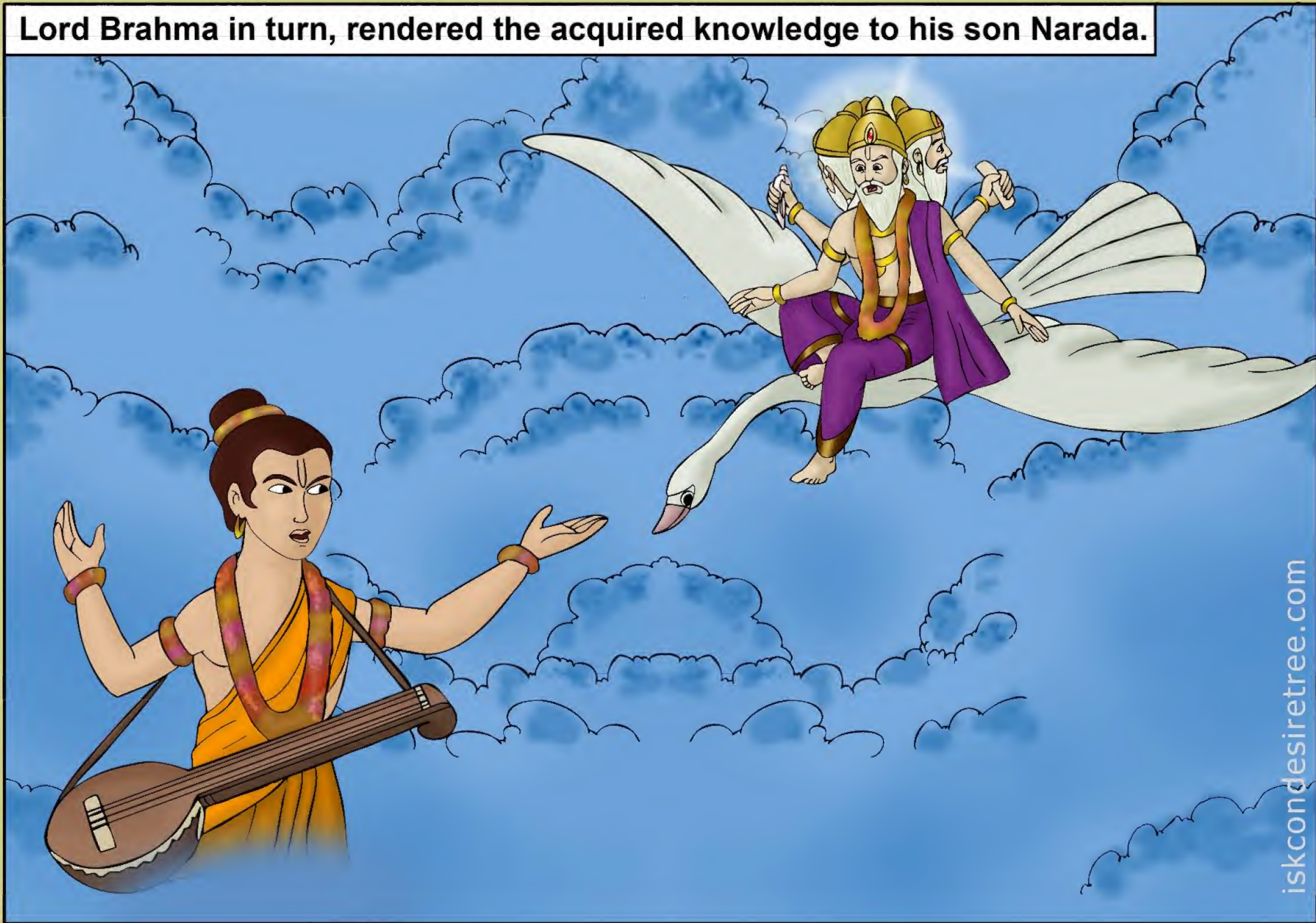
Once Srila Vyasadeva, disciple of Narada Muni was dissatisfied with the shortcomings of his compilation of Vedic literatures. Narada Muni knew the reason of Vyasadev's discontentment so he advised him to compile Srimad Bhagavatam in order to glorify the activities of the Supreme Lord and let people know of the supreme goal of life.



Lord Brahma, was enlightened by the Supreme Lord Sri Krishna.



Lord Brahma in turn, rendered the acquired knowledge to his son Narada.



Narada Muni passed down the same to his famous disciple Srila Vyasadev. The process continued through a chain of successors to the present day. The followers of 'Brahma Madhava Gaudiya Sampradaya' originate from Narada Muni as they worship deities in accordance with the directions given in 'Naradapancharatra' or 'Naradapancharatrika vidhi'.



!!! Narada Muni Ki Jai !!!

Script : Madanmanjari devi dasi
Graphics : Hari Roy & Ranjana Sawant
Produced by : iskcondesiretree.net